

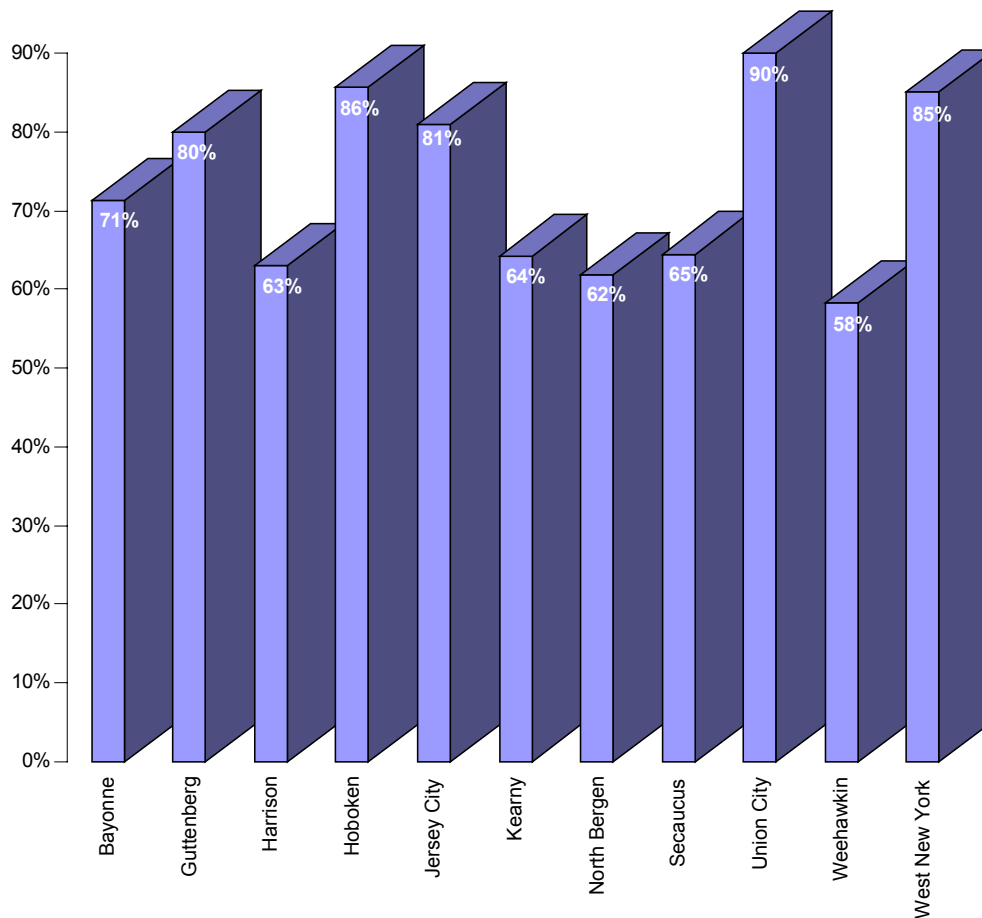
## Hudson Recycling Sweep Results

The Hudson County Recycling Sweep was conducted from June 6, 2005 through June 17, 2005. The sweep, which DEP led in partnership with the Hudson County Regional Health Commission and the Hudson County Improvement Authority (HCIA), assessed compliance with the state's mandatory recycling requirements.

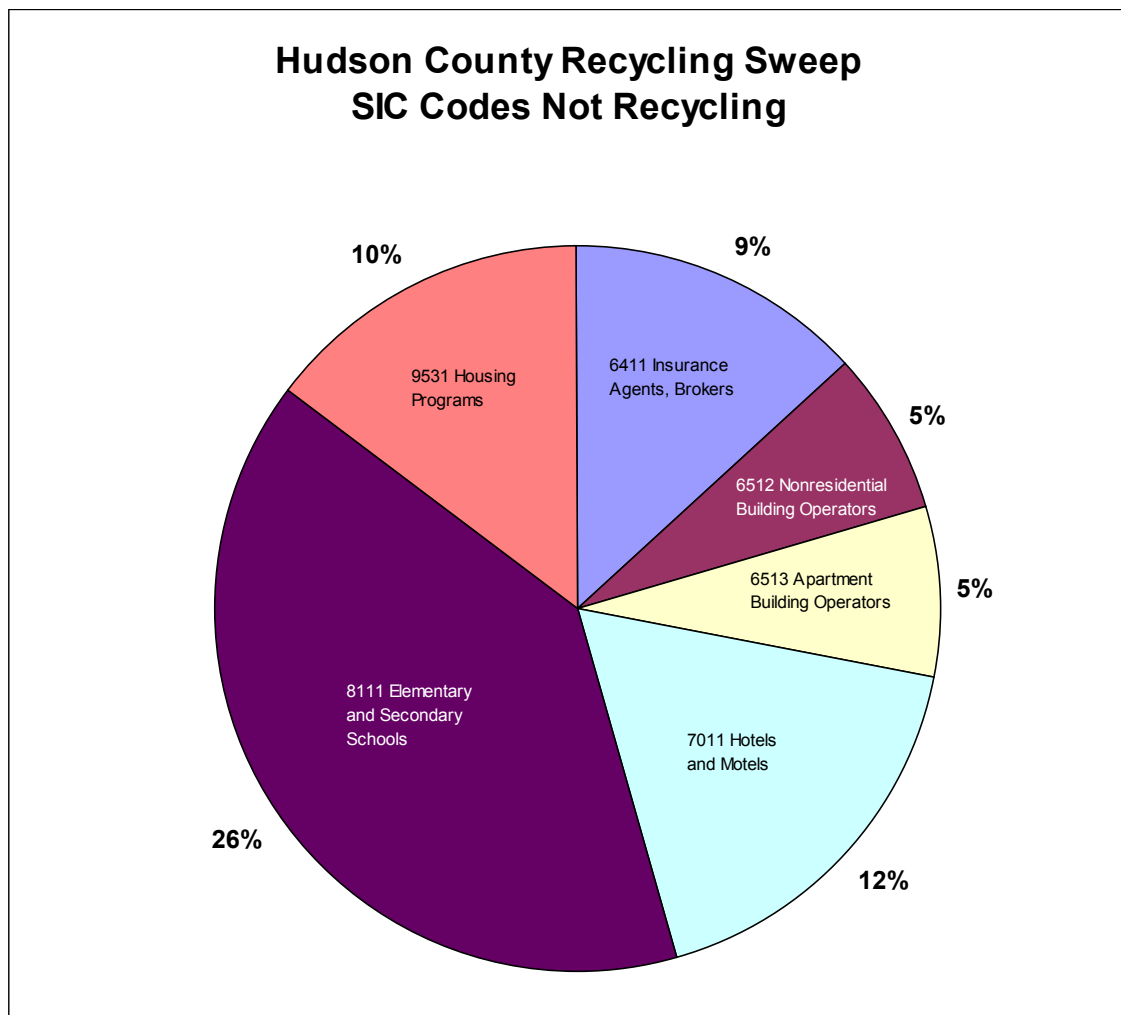
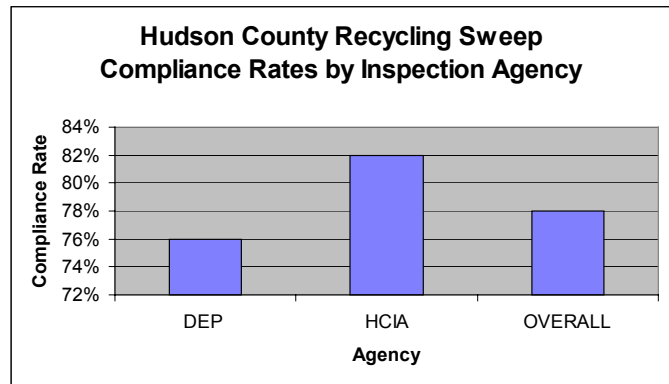
The Compliance portion of the sweep began in May and focused on providing outreach via an enforcement advisory in English, Spanish and Korean, posters, brochures, and public service announcements on television and radio. In addition, the DEP sent postcards announcing the sweep to each targeted facility they planned on inspecting. HCIA went one step further and visited each targeted facility on their list.

The initiative included inspections at 1,233 facilities. The DEP inspected 865 facilities and the County/Municipalities inspected 368 facilities. Certificates of Inspection were issued to those facilities that were found in compliance. A total of 967 certificates were issued. Recycling violations were found at 273 facilities. The remaining 960 sites were found in compliance. The overall recycling compliance rate was 78 percent, however compliance rates of the individual municipalities varied from 58 percent to 90 percent.

**Hudson County Recycling Sweep  
Compliance Rates by County**

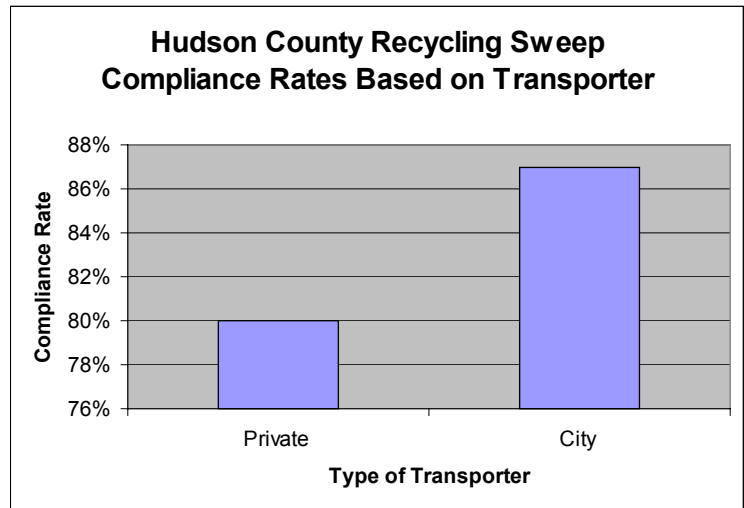


A compliance rate for the DEP inspected facilities was 76 percent, whereas the compliance rate was 82 percent for the county/municipal inspected facilities. Compliance rates by sector indicated that no one sector had any substantial compliance rates either good or bad over any other sector. The majority of the sectors were in the 70<sup>th</sup> to 80<sup>th</sup> percentile range.



Of the 273 facilities that were found not in compliance there was a fairly even distribution of those materials that were not being recycled (Glass 22%, Paper 22%, Plastic 22%, Cardboard 14%, Metals 20%). Of the 273 facilities, 104 or 38% were not recycling any materials. The majority of the facilities were Elementary and Secondary Schools (26%), followed by Hotels and Motels (12%), Housing Programs (10%), and Insurance Agents, Brokers (9%).

During the inspection process, facilities were asked who the transporter is for their recyclable wastes. Transporter information was provided for 1,011 facilities. The compliance rates were compared for the facilities that listed the municipality as the transporter and those that listed private haulers as their transporter. The compliance rates were 87 percent and 80 percent, respectively. With the exception of the City of North Bergen, the municipalities that collect their recyclable wastes had higher overall compliance rates.



The overall compliance rates were better than we expected at outset of the sweep. At least in part we believe because of the focused outreach and renewed effort by the County to educate the public and business community. Statewide education may help to improve recycling rates. An added lesson that emerges from this exercise is a need for improved and routine communication at all levels of government. When we started this effort with Hudson county officials, a comprehensive list of the municipal recycling coordinators had not been maintained. A significant outcome of this event we hope will be an ongoing dialogue and vastly improved recycling data reporting and management; perhaps recycling rates are not as low as our records have reflected.